THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Chief Minister of Bihar had proposed for setting up of an Institute of Information Technology in Bihar. The Task Force on HRD in IT has recommended that all major States could be facilitated to promote an exclusive institute for IT with State and Central funding and industry collaboration. As and when the scheme for Central Assistance for such institutions is being finalised, the proposal of State of Bihar will get due consideration.

Losses due to Brain-Drain

2577. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to last year's survey, the number of people wanting to return to India after completing their higher studies in the United States, fell from 50 per cent in 1985 to 20 per cent in 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country is losing as much as $ 2 billion a year as a result of emigrations to US; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to control brain-drain and save the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The Government is not aware of the survey under reference.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) Many of those students and scientists who go abroad for higher studies return with better knowledge. The period of stay of those who go abroad for jobs varies from a few weeks to a few years. Due to high mobility of students and scientists accurate estimation of cost of loss to the country as a result of emigration to US or any other country is not feasible. Several measures have been taken from time to time by the Government to minimise the outflow of professionals from various fields and also to attract them back to the country from abroad. Some of these measures are:

(i) Setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.

(ii) Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

(iii) S & T-based training for entrepreneurial development.

(iv) Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plan.

(v) Manpower development training/re-training programmes through associateships/fellowships/courses.

(vi) Provisions for temporary placement of scientists and technocrats under the scheme of scientists pool.

(vii) Creation of supernumerary posts.

(viii) Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.

(ix) Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists.

(x) Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions.

(xi) Award of scholarship under Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahyan Yojana for talented science students.

Child Marriage Restraint Act

2578. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has asked the States to take cognizance of the obnoxious practice and ensure action against the violators of the Child Marriage Restraint Act;